TO Business

TORONTO Economic Development ...speaking with the business community

February 2007

In This Issue:

1. Transit investment to generate 16,000 jobs and $985 million in construction
2. World renowned specialists choose Toronto
3. "Fathers of stem cell research" awarded Order of Ontario
4. Toronto convention: 4 days, 3,000 delegates and zero waste
5. ARIUS receives European patent for lead antibody
6. Stantec Architecture consolidating four GTA offices in Toronto
7. Toronto attracts world premier of Bollywood film
8. The Discovery District - Toronto's research breeding ground
9. "Creativity needs to be what we do," says Economic Development Committee Chair
10. Toronto Technology Week (TTW), May 28 - June 1, 2007
11. IFPIC - raising the reputation of food processors one tenant at a time
12. Toronto Board of Trade announces new President and CEO
13. Calendar
14. Contact Us
15. Here to Help

1. Transit investment to generate 16,000 jobs and $985 million in construction

The City of Toronto, GO Transit, TTC and Mississauga Transit (MT) have partnered on a major initiative to integrate and improve transit facilities at the Bloor-Islington and Kipling Stations.

The key objectives of the initiative are to:

- accelerate the transfer of MT bus terminal facilities to a new joint MT/GO Transit bus terminal at Kipling Station;
- expand passenger pickup and drop-off facilities and entrances, and relocate commuter parking at the Kipling and Islington Stations;
- build a new accessible TTC bus terminal north of the Islington Subway Station; and
- construct a new business node through a multi-phased commercial development

The initiative will create an urban neighbourhood with 4 million-sq. ft. of office and commercial space; 7,000 residential units and will generate more than 16,000 knowledge-based jobs and $985 million in construction spending.

The first phases of the proposed project will include the construction of a 345,000-sq. ft. corporate head office for SNC Lavalin and development of the remaining bus terminal lands at Islington/ Bloor into a mixed-use complex.

BACK TO TOP

2. World renowned specialists choose Toronto

Surgeons Alan Hudson and Susan McKinnon performed the world's first nerve transplant on a nine-year old boy in 1988. Fifteen years later, the Hospital for Sick Children identified for the first time, a cancer stem cell responsible for brain tumours. In 2004, researchers associated with the Hospital for Sick Children and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) identified a new form of disease gene associated with Rett syndrome. That same year, neuroscientists used wireless handheld technology to collect data from patients with bipolar disorder, ultimately building the largest database of its kind in Canada.

Developments such as these have established Toronto as the preferred destination that continues to attract research specialists. For example chemical biologist Guri Giaever left California's Stanford University for a position at the University of Toronto because, as she said, "for my research, this is the best place to be".

Internationally renowned for his work in genomics, Dr. Thomas Hudson has been appointed President and Scientific Director of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research transferring to Toronto from his post as Assistant Director of the Boston-area Whitehead/MIT Centre for Genomic Research.

BACK TO TOP

3. "Fathers of stem cell research" awarded Order of Ontario

Two Toronto scientists who first proved the existence of stem cells more than 40 years ago, and are often called the fathers of stem cell science, were named to the Order of Ontario in December 2006.

While working together at the Ontario Cancer Institute in the early 1960s, James Till and Ernest McCulloch published a pivotal paper on what they called colony-forming cells. This 1961 paper is considered the foundation for stem cell science.

"They were the first to show that stem cells existed and to demonstrate how they function, including their capacity for self-renewal," said Michael Rudnicki, scientific director of Canada's Stem Cell Network.

In addition to receiving the Order of Ontario, University of Toronto professors Till and McCulloch, have received the Order of Canada, are inductees of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame and have taken home the two top prizes in medicine - the Lasker Prize and the Gairdner Award.

BACK TO TOP

4. Toronto convention: 4 days, 3,000 delegates and zero waste

The Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA) held its 51st meeting at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) early in January. The four-day meeting, which attracted more than 3,000 North American leaders in the meeting and convention industry, illustrated the growing emphasis on green meetings in this industry.

Throughout the meeting, all leftover food and drinks were either donated to Second Harvest or recycled into compost. Trained MTCC staff also collected, sorted and recycled used paper products, bottles and cans.

"For Toronto, this is an achievement that puts the destination and the Convention Centre at the head of the class in a growing field," Deborah Sexton, President and CEO of PCMA stated. In fact, Toronto convention facilities have shown leadership and made real commitments to ensure that the city is well positioned to accommodate the increasing demand for green meetings.

At the conclusion of the successful PCMA convention, Tourism Toronto announced the addition of three major international conventions scheduled for 2009, 2012 and 2015 and forecast to bring a combined 22,000 delegates and $53 million in direct spending to the Toronto region.

BACK TO TOP

5. ARIUS receives European patent for lead antibody

Toronto-based ARIUS Research Inc.'s lead program for breast and prostate cancers targeting the CD59 antigen received a patent from the European Patent Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

ARIUS Research Inc. is a biotechnology company dedicated to the discovery and development of novel anticancer monoclonal antibodies (MAbs) focused on destroying cancer cells.

The PCT patent is a significant addition to the ARIUS Intellectual Property portfolio. ARIUS has over 80 patents pending.

BACK TO TOP

6. Stantec Architecture consolidating four GTA offices in Toronto

Stantec Architecture will be moving to a new facility in downtown Toronto. The Wellington Street West location will enable Stantec to consolidate four of its GTA offices to 40,000 sq. ft of office space on two floors of the McGregor Socks building. The new office will accommodate 190 employees. Construction is to begin in March and the facility will be operational by June 1, 2007.

Stantec provides professional design and consulting services in planning, architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, surveying and project management. Stantec is recognized as a world-class leader and innovator in the delivery of sustainable solutions and services are offered through more than 6,000 employees operating in over 80 locations in North America and the Caribbean.

BACK TO TOP

7. Toronto attracts world premier of Bollywood film

Thousands attended the world premier in Toronto of Bollywood film "GURU" - India's first mainstream international release. Stars Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai and Producer Bobby Bedi attended the event at the Elgin Theatre on January 11.

"We chose Toronto as the venue for the world premiere because Toronto is one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world," said Bedi.

Indian Cinema leads the world in shear volume of production and in terms of its diversity and artistry. Today Bollywood is an international brand. Its films are creating a cultural bridge bringing the world to India, and introducing India to the world.

BACK TO TOP

8. The Discovery District - Toronto's research breeding ground

More than $1 billion is directed annually to biomedical and scientific research activities in the city's Discovery District.

The Discovery District, a unique vertical research park, is fully integrated into the city's downtown core and is one of the world's most concentrated mixes of research, biomedical companies, as well as finance and business support services.

Institutions including MaRS, the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research and the University Health Network can be found in this 2-square kilometre idea breeding ground.

To learn more about the Discovery District and the significant role its members play in the global biomedical and scientific community, please contact Matt Buist at 416-392-3380.

BACK TO TOP

9. "Creativity needs to be what we do," says Economic Development Committee Chair

Kyle Rae, City Councillor representing Ward 27 Toronto-Centre-Rosedale, brings his signature hard working commitment to his new role as Chair of Toronto Economic Development Committee. A strong proponent for the business community, Kyle has worked tirelessly to create and enhance Business Improvement Areas in Bloor-Yorkville, Church Wellesley, downtown Yonge and Rosedale. As Chair of Toronto's Roundtable on Arts and Culture he helped launch Nuit Blanche, the City's first 'sunset-to-sunrise' celebration of contemporary art and is a staunch supporter of the City's expanding cultural institutions.

Kyle is focused on an agenda that promotes innovation thereby securing Toronto's reputation as the preferred North American business address. "Creativity needs to be what we do. MaRS, located in the heart of the Discovery District, is an example of where creativity can lead our City. We need to expand our support and financial assistance for such trend-setting and novel approaches."

Kyle will assist the Mayor in creating a strong economy and creative city, believing these objectives rely upon each other for success. He is currently promoting Toronto's investment opportunities internationally, advocating for fair business taxes and vigorously identifying and enhancing the competitive advantages of Toronto's burgeoning creative initiatives.

BACK TO TOP

10. Toronto Technology Week (TTW), May 28 - June 1, 2007

Toronto Technology Week (TTW) will host a series of activities to showcase the depth and breadth of Toronto's high technology sector. These will include seminars and business networking functions, job fairs, collaboration demonstrations, an ICT business open-door program, school projects, educational seminars, special exhibits showcasing innovation & excellence and more.

For more information on how you can participate, please contact: Dave Forde, Chair, Toronto Technology Week, 416-760-3344.

BACK TO TOP

11. IFPIC - raising the reputation of food processors one tenant at a time

The proposed International Food Processing and Innovation Centre (IFPIC) will provide much needed HACCP ready, energy-efficient, world class, food processing space, complete with shared services and synergistic opportunities.

The Centre will also offer commercialization/incubation space, a small business development centre and a food production mall. Tenant spaces range from 2,000 sq. ft. to 60,000 sq. ft.

For leasing enquiries and more information contact: Michael Wolfson, Food and Beverage Sector Specialist at 416-392-3830

BACK TO TOP

12. Toronto Board of Trade announces new President and CEO

Carol Wilding has been named as the new President and CEO of the Toronto Board of Trade, Canada's largest local chamber of commerce. "We're very excited," expressed Board of Trade Chair Becky McKinnon. "She has an outstanding record of strengthening and developing non-profit organizations such as ours."

Wilding, former President of the Mt. Sinai Hospital Foundation and Foster Parents Plan Canada, officially takes her post on February 19.

BACK TO TOP

13. Calendar

March 4 - 6, 2007 - Canadian Venture Forum

For more information visit: www.canadianventureforum.ca

March 4 - 7, 2007 - Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) International Convention

The 75th Annual PDAC International Convention, Trade Show and Investors Exchange, the most important event in the world of exploration, attracts a wide-range of international players involved in the field. The Trade Show and Investors Exchange - Mining Investment Show are dedicated solely to the mineral industry. For more information visit: www.pdac.ca

May 28 - 30, 2007 - ITAC First Canadian Municipal Wireless Applications Conference & Exhibition

ITAC's first conference of this kind will provide real case study insights, proven strategies, commentary from leading wireless experts and techniques for deploying wireless applications in your communities.

For registration and information visit: www.itac.ca
Bobby Walman, Conference Convener, 416-587-7053

June 13 - 16, 2007 - TERMIS NA 2007

TERMIS NA 2007 Conference and Exhibition is the pre-eminent international event for the tissue engineering and regenerative medicine field. Meet the researchers, entrepreneurs and cutting-edge innovators who are setting tomorrow's tissue engineering innovations today. For more information visit: www.regenerate-online.com

BACK TO TOP

14. Contact Us

We are interested in your feedback. Contact us at cknipfel@toronto.ca with ideas for future newsletter topics, questions about issues raised, or to add names to our

distribution list.

15. Here to Help

If you are looking to expand or relocate, if you need assistance with city, provincial or federal agencies, contact us. We are able to put you in touch with key contacts to expedite your business plans.

Check out Toronto's comprehensive business services at www.toronto.ca/business.

To access past issues of TO business, click here.

To unsubscribe reply to this email with unsubscribe in the subject heading.